

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, June 23, 1994

Published Since 1877

EEOC assessing reaction to harassment guidelines

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Blitzed by criticism from religious groups, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is studying extensive public input before issuing final guidelines on religious and other forms of harassment in the workplace.

Last October the EEOC issued proposed guidelines for complying with the 1964 Civil Rights Act's ban against workplace discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The guidelines say conduct is unlawful when it has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment; unreasonably interferes with work performance; or otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment opportunities.

Conduct is sufficiently severe and pervasive to be considered harassment when a reasonable person would find it intimidating, hostile, or abusive.

While the time for public comment on the guidelines ended in November, an agency spokeswoman said EEOC still is hearing from the public and is reviewing comments, including those that arrived after the deadline.

Reaction from Baptist and other religious organizations has been split. Some, including Michael Whitehead, the Christian Life Commission's general counsel, say the EEOC proposal could turn workplaces into "religion-free" zones. He wants religion omitted from the guidelines.

"We are deeply concerned that the guidelines would have a chilling effect on religious freedom and expression in the workplace," Whitehead earlier told Baptist Press. "If a person shares his faith with a co-worker on lunch break, the person and his employer might be charged with religious harassment."

Others, including Brent Walker, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, say such fears are overblown and that EEOC need only modify the guidelines to ensure they are not applied in ways that restrict legitimate religious activities.

In an April 5 letter to the EEOC, Walker said removing religion from the guidelines "could send a wrong signal that EEOC is less concerned about religious harassment than it is harassment in other forms."

However, to hedge against the possibility that employers might apply the guidelines in ways that limit or "chill" religious speech and practice, Walker urged the EEOC to amend its proposals "to make absolutely clear that they are intended to protect, not denigrate, religion and expressly disavow any intent on the part of EEOC to create a 'religion free zone' in the workplace."

Walker suggested to EEOC that the guidelines list examples of conduct that, without aggravating circumstances, would not constitute harassment. Among the examples:

— Sharing one's religious affiliation or conviction or using reli-

gious language in casual conversation;

— Inviting a colleague to attend church or Bible study;

— Discussing religious topics informally or in the context of voluntarily attended Bible studies during free time; and

— Wearing or displaying religious objects.

Including these or similar examples, Walker said, would answer concerns that the guidelines will be used to inhibit religion while advancing the positive aspects that prevent religious harassment.

(See related article on page 2.)



Baptists meet in Orlando

Southern Baptists from across the U.S. gathered at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando June 14-16 for the 137th annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, America's largest Protestant denomination. See pages 3-6 of this issue for details.

Campolo warns: Don't reinvent Jesus

By Tim Nicholas

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Sociologist Tony Campolo asked participants at the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association (SBREA) annual meeting in Orlando to what degree American Christians transform Jesus into a collection of their own traits and values.

"What comes across," he suggested, "is not the biblical Jesus, but a white Anglo Saxon Republican."

Campolo, a professor at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., and one of three speakers at the meeting, offered an analysis of the subtle changes he believes have been made in the biblical Jesus. It has a great deal to do with money, he said.

Christians have changed the hymn book to "10 percent to

Jesus I surrender," Campolo said. And he asked whether Jesus would drive a BMW. "If Jesus had 60,000 bucks and knew that people were starving," what would he do? Campolo asked. He said that the Bible has more than 900 verses that say to sell what you have and give it to the poor.

"You could see that a person without a seminary education might think that's what Jesus meant. All you have to do is not put wealth in front of God," he said. "Fortunately," added Campolo, "we can create a new Jesus that allows us to maintain our wealth and power."

Campolo quoted the Lord as saying that at the judgment some professing Jesus will be told, "I don't know you." Campolo suggested that will happen "because

maybe the Jesus they were serving and worshiping is not the real Jesus at all."

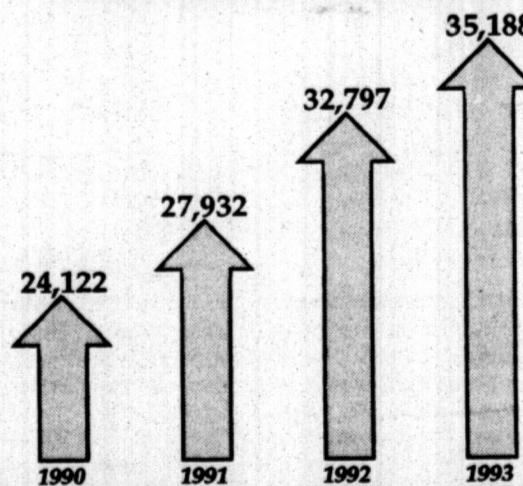
Campolo told the educators that he's getting heat because of an interpretation of his position on homosexuality. "I have found it is impossible to show genuine compassion — not approval — without getting shot down," he said. "I have never ever, ever, ever said anything but what Romans 1 says, that same-gender sexual relations are not acceptable and are not allowed within the context of faith."

Other speakers at the SBREA meeting were Dan Yearly, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church, and Carol Childress of Leadership Network in Tyler, Texas.

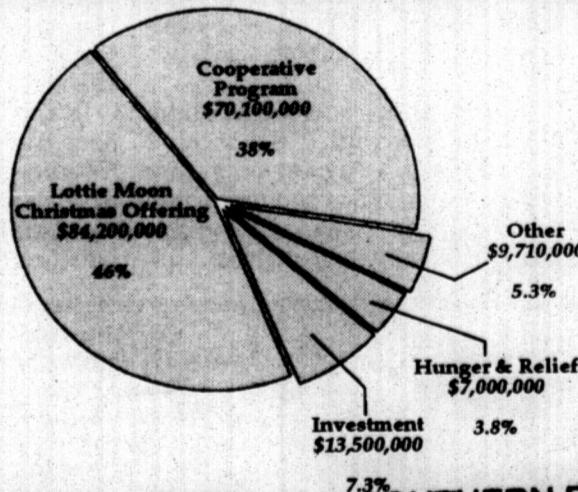
Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

Southern Baptist foreign missions on the move around world

Church growth overseas



1993 Foreign Mission Board budget



Looking Back...

10 years ago

Jenny Kay Graham, member of First Church, Pascagoula, will sing soprano for the Baptist Festival Singers, whose summer tour includes concerts in several cities in Germany and Switzerland, and at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

20 years ago

Mississippi College marks the 50th anniversary of "unrestricted admission" of women to the Baptist-affiliated college, which has seen female graduates grow from seven in 1924 to over half the Class of 1974.

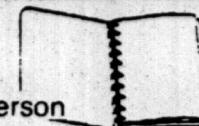
50 years ago

A passing taxi driver saves the Baptist Building when he alerts the fire department to flames spreading through the building. Employees gather the next morning to praise God for sparing work and records that could not be replaced.

Thursday, June 23, 1994

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



A shift in emphasis

What happened at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention? Will the Convention change directions? How did Fred Wolfe lose the presidential election when he had history and the fundamental/conservative leadership behind him? Perhaps there is a danger for all groups to read more than they should into this election. Jim Henry was called to a news conference minutes after being elected.

Henry made it plain that the election is not a "repudiation" of the direction of the fundamental/conservative group. There are some younger pastors in the group who feel the SBC has made its stand for a high view of the Scripture and now it is time to move on.

Henry said he favored what has taken place in the SBC, but now we need to be reaching people for Christ, building a strong mission

program, and keeping our conservative commitment to Christ. It is a "shift in emphasis," said the new president.

The convention's location in Florida and the Dilday backlash were tremendous boosters to launching Henry's candidacy.

Meanwhile, most fundamental/conservatives will support Henry and most moderate/conservatives will be pleased with the shift in emphasis.

There was a strong call for morality in the tone of the convention. Many speakers touched on it, the True-Love Waits campaign exemplified it, and Dan Quayle, said, "I told you so."

Jim Henry, the new president, reiterated the SBC's stand opposing abortion and homosexuality, declaring it "breaks my heart" that (President) Clinton's views do not reflect views currently

held in the SBC.

Southern Baptists continue to be a mission-minded people. The appointment service Sunday night of 55 new missionaries and the record Lottie Moon offering are strong signals. "Cross Over Orlando," personal witnessing in opportune moments, plus the vibrant work of the WMU reveal the interest in obeying Christ's command.

Also, perhaps the autonomy and freedom of Baptists were underscored anew. It was painfully apparent that we have Baptists who follow personalities more than principles.

However, there seemingly were more messengers interested in the total program and commitment of who we are, where we are going, and what we are doing. Not a great deal will change this next year, but at least there has been a shift in emphasis.

House appropriations panel declines EEOC amendment

By Pam Parry

WASHINGTON (ABP) — An attempt to bar the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from implementing proposed religious harassment guidelines failed June 15 in the House Appropriations Committee.

But the issue is not dead, according to the congressman who proposed the amendment.

The proposed EEOC guidelines interpret Title VII of the Civil Rights Act by defining what constitutes religious harassment in the workplace. The EEOC published and distributed the proposed guidelines, inviting public comment before their implementation.

Religious and civil liberties groups have criticized the guidelines as vague and open to misinterpretation. Some groups have called for stripping religion from the guidelines, while others urge that the religion section be maintained, but clarified. (See related article on page 1.)

Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C., tacked an amendment opposing the guidelines to an appropriations bill for various government agencies, including the EEOC. The guidelines could "hamper religious expression," Taylor said, adding that concerns about the regulations have come from both left and right.

Rep. Sidney Yates, D-Ill., argued against the amendment, calling it "a very drastic remedy." He pointed to the diverse religious

groups opposing the amendment, including the Baptist Joint Committee, a religious liberty watchdog group representing several Baptist groups.

The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, meanwhile, opposes the guidelines. The SBC adopted a resolution backing its moral concerns agency June 16, urging separate treatment for concerns about religious harassment.

The amendment failed 28 to 21. Taylor told Associated Baptist

Press he plans to bring the amendment to the floor of the House of Representatives and — despite its defeat in the committee — predicts it will succeed. The committee level is a more controlled environment, Taylor said, because some members feel obligated to go along with the chairman.

Taylor's amendment would prohibit using any funds in the appropriations bill to implement the regulations.

Parry writes for Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C.

ACTS celebrates 10 years of evangelism

ACTS (American Christian Television System) is 10 years old.

The faith and values cable television service of the SBC's Radio and Television Commission was the vision of Jimmy Allen, former president of the RTVC and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He guided the network from inception through its formative years.

"Allen's vision was the cornerstone for what ACTS has become over the past 10 years," said Jack Johnson, president of the RTVC.

"What began as a small cable service reaching a few people in a limited geographical area now reaches into more than 20 million homes nationwide."

ACTS was the first religious

programming network to feature multi-denominational involvement — Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Seventh-Day Adventist — local promotion and programming, with no on-air solicitation of funds.

The growth of ACTS has not been without turmoil. In July of 1992, ACTS entered into a shared channel arrangement with VISN (Vision Interfaith Satellite Network), owned and operated by the National Interfaith Cable Coalition (NICC).

The channel was first called VISN-ACTS, with VISN receiving 16 hours a day for programming, and ACTS receiving eight. Last January the name of the channel was changed to "Faith and

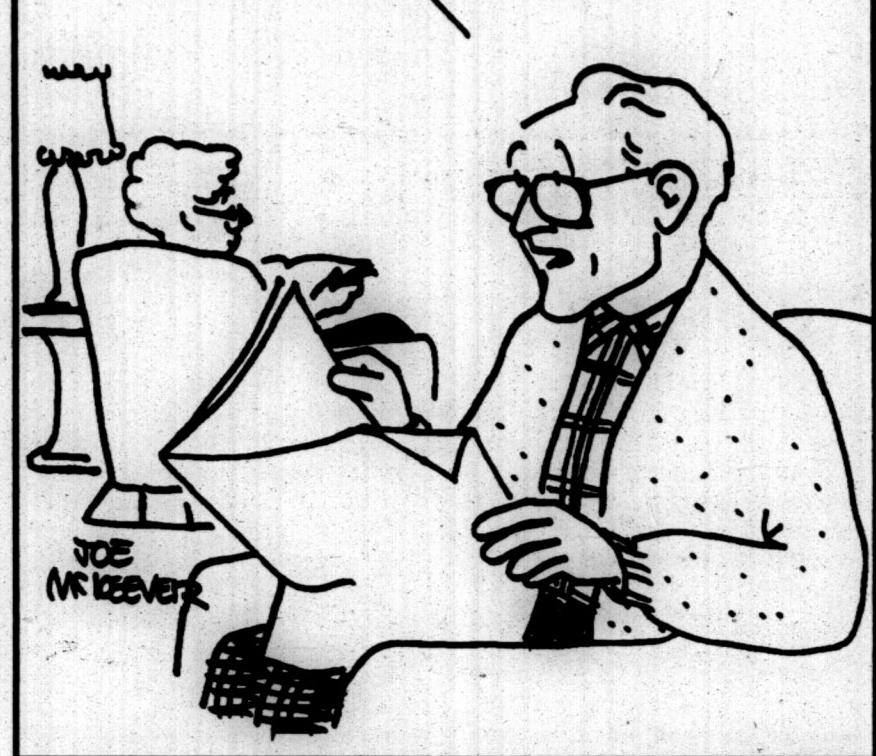
Values Channel," though ACTS and VISN continue to operate as fully autonomous networks sharing a common delivery system.

Johnson said ministry programs continue to be the most-watched on the channel, and that monthly telephone calls and letters requesting spiritual help have tripled since the onset of the arrangement.

"The TV ministries of preachers Frank Pollard, Charles Stanley, Ronnie Floyd, Ed Young,... are reaching the lost in all of our major cities because of the shared channel agreement," said Johnson.

RTVC Executive Vice President Richard T. McCartney said, "Without the vision and courage of a person like Jimmy Allen, there would not be an... electronic outreach of Southern Baptists...."

"IT OCCURS TO ME THAT AS A RETIREE I AM BEST-LOVED BY DOCTORS, TRAVEL AGENTS, HOSPITALS, AND REALTORS."



THE FRAGMENTS

Life without a clutch

I remember it well. My daughter had learned to drive in a vehicle with an automatic transmission. Then one day she faced the clutch. "What is that thing?" was the opening greeting.

"Slowly, release the clutch, giving it a little gas at the same time," I told her. I should have known better. Some people have trouble walking and chewing gum simultaneously. A solemn pronouncement was placed on driving instructors who teach with-

out a clutch.

"Slowly," I repeated as I separated my forehead from the windshield, "Don't race the motor — people are staring."

Why is it that people who forget to turn off their headlights never forget to lock their cars? Or as the sage of observation said, "Sometimes we are too smart for our own good."

Some wit observed that if the safety pin had been invented today it would probably have six moving parts, two transistors, and require a serviceman twice a year.

It would be nice if we could harmonize Detroit City and Clutchville, USA. If only people would learn to drive a tractor first... like it is a good thing to knock the daily grind out of gear and let things idle for awhile. For some, this left-footed evil is a sure plague and for others it's the zenith of motorized enjoyment.

I recall my papa staring at the "iron mule," which was his private way of acknowledging the tractor.

"A man ought to be ashamed to let one of those things in his field..." he would say. "If the good Lord had intended for us to use those things he would have given us steering wheels instead of plow-lines."

Pa never was much of a clutch man... but then, he never had to teach a daughter to drive.

— GH

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True Love Waits chastity pledge cards signed by 102,695 Southern Baptist youths were displayed on the grounds of the Orange County (Fla.) Convention Center during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting there June 14-16. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Southern Baptist youths surpass goal for chastity campaign

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — It's official. Southern Baptist youths have met and exceeded their goal for the nationwide sexual abstinence campaign, "True Love Waits."

The proof was clearly visible June 14 in a colorful display of 102,695 signed chastity cards in Orlando, Fla. Several hundred teenagers from seven states created the display which covered approximately 50,000 square feet of space outside the Orange County Convention Center.

Most of the cards were placed inside plastic holders which the teens staked into the ground. Thousands of others were placed in a plastic cube in a nearby media tent.

Campaign spokesman Richard Ross said he is "very very pleased but not surprised" the Southern Baptist goal was met.

"I think it is one thing for adults to say that they think teenagers might make a commitment to abstinence. I think it is quite another thing to have physical proof that teenagers made that commitment," Ross said.

"I am convinced that this proof that young people are choosing abstinence is going to make an impact on church leaders, on policy makers, on educators. Young people themselves have said True Love Waits and that is what is going to make a difference."

The display of chastity cards in Orlando generated another round of heavy media coverage for True Love Waits, a campaign which already has reached an audience in the hundreds of millions, according to campaign organizers. Among those carrying reports on the event were Cable News Network (CNN), CBS News "Up to the Minute," USA Today, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Associated Press, British Broadcasting Company (BBC), and two London,

England-based newspapers.

Sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board and now endorsed by 25 other denominations and Christian organizations, True Love Waits was launched last year at a nationwide youth conference in Nashville. Through Bible studies, music, a series of Christian sex education resources and other materials, the campaign is designed to encourage young people to abstain from sex until marriage. Young people also are invited to sign pledge cards.

That's a message Brad Branson was happy to share with his youth group at Thomasville Road in Tallahassee, Fla. Seventy-one teenagers from his church made the commitment and five made the trip to Orlando to help put up the display.

"I think it is a great statement to America and it is going to be even greater when other denominations join us next month. It's going to be an awesome sight," Branson said, referring to the national True Love Waits celebration planned July 29 in Washington, D.C. At that event, pledge cards from all participating denominations and Christian groups will be displayed on the Washington Mall near the U.S. Capitol. The event is part of "DC 94," a nationwide youth evangelism conference sponsored by Youth for Christ.

Even the Washington event won't signal the end of True Love Waits, though. Messengers to the 137th meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando voted June 15 to make the campaign's message an annual emphasis. February will now be designated as True Love Waits month on the denominational calendar and the BSSB will provide guidance materials to help churches carry out a yearly abstinence education program.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE The Baptist Record

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SBC-Orlando messengers address variety of issues

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Messengers to the 137th session of the Southern Baptist Convention heard testimonies, sermons, and reports that, in traditional SBC fashion, targeted the spiritual issues of the day.

Inspirational testimonies also flavored each SBC session, with messengers hearing, for example, how a mother found peace after a brain aneurism claimed her 8-year-old daughter who, at age 7, had sensed a call to missions; a father weathered the suicide of his depressed 27-year-old son; a divorced single mother's faith led to a restored marriage; and a missionary family in Africa miraculously escaped civil warfare that swept into the town where they lived.

Young, Boyles sermons

H. Edwin Young, in his presidential address, declared Southern Baptists "are not a part of that bigoted, hard, Ayatollah Khomeini, mean-spirited understanding of the fundamentalist. That's not who we are. That's a pejorative term."

Rather: "We are conservative, evangelical, Southern Baptists who believe in every fundamental of the faith that is taught in the inerrant Word of God," said Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church. "The world is asking the same question over and over and over again: 'What can wash away my sins?' And may we as Southern Baptists from every pew and in every pulpit of our 38,000 churches answer, 'Nothing but the blood of Jesus.'"

Christians are losing the battle for America's soul and "passive preachers" bear much of the responsibility, said Bobby Boyles in the annual convention sermon.

"The problem in this nation," said Boyles, pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Oklahoma City, "is not with the prostitutes, the pimps, the punks, the pushers, but it's with puny, pampered, passive preaching from the pulpits of America.... Nobody it seems is standing and preaching that the Word of God is the Word of God and hell is hot and heaven is high and sin is wrong and God and marriage are right. It's time to take a stand."

Boyles challenged preachers to preach the Word of God "no matter what the cost. Be a Baptist preacher, not a Baptist babysitter."

Annuity Board investments
Paul Powell, president of the Dallas-based Annuity Board, told

messengers the SBC agency, to the best of its ability, invests in stocks which are morally and ethically accepted by Southern Baptists. Powell reiterated the nation's second-largest church pension board does not invest in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, or abortion.

In response to a motion at the 1993 Houston convention to study the ramifications of the board owning stock in companies whose products or services are generally viewed as being incompatible

the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions and \$100 million for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

"The \$150 million total... equals \$1 million per year for our missions heritage," said WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien.

Ernest Mosley, executive vice president of the SBC Executive Committee, challenged messengers to consider whether their 1976 commitment to share the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000 was "real or pretend."

Some churches and individuals have demonstrated risk and sacrifice on behalf of Bold Mission Thrust, Mosley said, while others are focusing instead on themselves and their facilities.

A 24-year goal may have been too much time, lulling people into thinking they had plenty of time to develop goals and plans, Mosley said, reminding, "The time is late. Judgment is coming."

I know
~~HE IS ABLE~~

2 Timothy 1:12

with the moral standards of Southern Baptists, Powell said the board is attempting to find an "abortion free" fund for investing purposes.

In a survey of more than 2,000 annuitants, Powell said 128 responded they would be interested in investing their money in such a fund, with only 22 responding they would invest "all their money." He said that represents 1% of all annuitants. He said he believes the other 99% are "satisfied with our policies and practices."

"As fiduciaries (one who manages another person's money) we cannot impose our social standards on another if it adversely affects their earnings. We can offer alternative funds and we are monitoring some outside funds. If after a period they prove effective, we will offer such a fund on a voluntary basis," Powell said.

Missions emphases

In the missions arena, messengers heard a Woman's Missionary Union report announcing — for the SBC's 150th anniversary next year — the highest missions offering goals ever for the two SBC missions agencies: \$50 million for

— approved the 1994-95 Southern Baptist program allocation budget of \$136,539,730, including an SBC operating budget of \$4,103,786.

— adopted a challenge goal of \$150 million in honor of the SBC's 1995 sesquicentennial anniversary.

— selected St. Louis as the site of the SBC annual meeting in 2002.

— revised plans for the SBC Sesquicentennial Celebration, incorporating it as a major focus of the 1995 SBC meeting in Atlanta.

— named R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to preach the 1995 convention sermon, with John Greer, pastor of Pleasant Heights Church in Indianapolis, as alternate.

No BR July 7

There will be no Baptist Record published on July 7. Because our postal contract requires that we publish only 50 issues per year, The Baptist Record does not produce issues for the weeks of July 4 and Christmas.

The following deadlines will be observed: News items should be in The Baptist Record offices by noon Thursday, June 23 in order to be published in the June 30 issue, and by noon on July 7 in order to make the July 14 issue. Advertising space must be reserved by June 30 for the July 14 issue, with copy due by July 5.



ORLANDO — A boy feeds birds near Lake Eola, with the Orlando skyline in the distance. More than 2.3 million people live here now — more than 20 times the population when Walt Disney World opened 23 years ago. Transition in the growing city offers a challenge to the Greater Orlando Baptist Association's 123 churches, said Edward Gilstrap, director of missions. "It is very likely that someone who has been won to Christ, baptized, discipled, well-trained, and moved into a leadership role in one of our churches will be gone in a matter of two years." (HMB photo by Laura Sikes)

MESSENGERS ELECT NEW PRESIDENT...

SBC taking aim at 21st century with Jim Henry, without CBF

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Fifteen years after the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative wing began its long, controversial drive to transform the nation's largest non-Catholic denomination, SBC voters took actions shaping the convention for its entry into the 21st century.

During the June 14-16 session of the SBC in Orlando, Fla., messengers from local churches:

- tapped a new-style conservative president in Orlando pastor Jim Henry.

- resolved to move forward without funds from breakaway moderates launching a new denomination. (See related story, this page.)

- celebrated SBC leadership in an internationally acclaimed chastity campaign to which more than 100,000 teens have made commitments. (See related story, page 3.)

- determined to move beyond controversy sparked by the firing of Russell H. Dilday Jr. earlier this year. Messengers defeated a motion calling for an investigation of the firing.

More than 20,000 messengers and their families converged on Orlando to conduct the business of the 137th session of the SBC.

Jim Henry's election

Henry, pastor of Orlando's First Church, seemed to possess all the right characteristics for election victory except one — the top conservative leadership's blessing, which instead went to Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hills Church in Mobile, Ala., and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee. Prior to the election conservative leaders said privately Henry likely would be one of their nominees in coming years.

Instead, Henry's stunning 55-to-45% victory June 14 over Wolfe surprised the reigning conservative leadership, who immediately embraced the new president while keeping a wary eye on his pledge to seek reconciliation among those who see themselves as conservative but outside the present leadership's perimeters.

Paige Patterson, one of the conservative resurgence's



Henry

chief architects of the conservative resurgence, said, "While I am certainly disappointed for Fred, I rejoice we have come to a day in the convention when two solid Bible-believing, soul-winning men of God would be the choice of the convention."

Henry himself said, "We're conservative; we like what's been happening," but the SBC needs to get on with "reaching people for Christ, building strong churches, missions, and keeping our conservative commitment to Christ.... There are some other themes besides inerrancy to move toward."

In tapping Henry, messengers also made a strong statement about the SBC's Cooperative Program funding channel for national and international missions and ministries. Henry's church led the SBC's 38,000-plus churches in CP giving the last three years, dispatching 14% of undesignated receipts last year to its state Baptist convention and the SBC.

"In these critical times Jim Henry sends a beautiful, balanced message of grace and truth to the world," said Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Church in Dallas who nominated Henry, describing him as the "total package" of personal soul-winner and leading supporter of Southern Baptist global missions through the Cooperative Program.

Among other factors observers cited as fueling Henry's vote:

- momentum from younger conservatives troubled by the abrupt firing of Southwestern Seminary's President Russell H. Dilday Jr.

- 3,500 Florida messengers, compared to a contingent of 900 from the state's churches at last year's annual meeting in Houston.

For the other top offices, messengers elected two other Executive Committee members: one, a native of Hong Kong, Simon Tsoi, pastor of First Chinese Church in Phoenix, Ariz., first vice president by acclamation; and the other, Gary Frost, an African American, as second vice president in a run-off after an initial ballot with four nominees. Frost, pastor of Rising Star Church in Youngstown, Ohio, formerly served two terms as president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio.

Lee Porter, of Pensacola, Fla., SBC registration secretary since 1977, was elected without opposition, as was recording secretary David Atchison of Brentwood, Tenn.

SBC tells agencies to reject funding from Fellowship

By Greg Warner

ORLANDO (ABP) — Contributions to Southern Baptist causes that are delivered through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are not wanted, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention said June 15.

Messengers voted by a margin of almost three-to-two to instruct their 20-plus agencies and institutions not to accept funds channeled through the Fellowship, an organization of moderate Southern Baptists displeased with the SBC's current conservative leaders.

With the vote, messengers went beyond the action of their Executive Committee, which two days earlier merely "encouraged" the agencies to refuse the Fellowship funds.

Some observers said the vote will speed a split between Fellowship-supporting churches and the SBC, which many conservatives and moderates view as inevitable

and even welcome. But others say the action changes little, and that moderate churches that still want to support SBC causes will find other ways to deliver the money.

Since its formation three years ago, the Fellowship has channeled about \$9 million in contributions from Baptist churches and individuals to the SBC agencies, bypassing the traditional avenue of support, the SBC Cooperative Program budget. In 1993 SBC-bound gifts accounted for a fourth of Fellowship income.

But SBC leaders, as well as messengers who spoke from the floor, said those contributions undermine the unity and integrity of the Southern Baptist system of cooperation. Many Baptists consider the Fellowship to be competing with the SBC for church funds, since the Fellowship also supports its own missions program and other ministries.

During the three-day SBC meeting in Orlando, three motions with almost identical wording were introduced to restrict CBF funds. In its final form, the motion calls for the SBC to "direct its agencies and institutions to maintain fidelity to the convention, to avoid compromising the integrity of the Cooperative Program, and to decline to receive funds through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

Craig Kendall of Aurora, Colo., who offered the motion, said the Fellowship and SBC have "mutually exclusive" positions on many issues. The Fellowship opposes the SBC stance against abortion and homosexuality and in favor of biblical authority and the virgin birth of Jesus, he said.

"The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship bases its appeal for gifts on the claim that it is a legitimate way to give to Southern Baptist causes," Kendall said. "If we accept any receipts from them, we legitimize their claim and, in effect, their agenda."

Owen Bozeman, a Milton, Fla., pastor who supports the Cooperative Program and not the Fellowship, nonetheless argued against the motion, which he said might reflect an un-Christian spirit. "Cooperative Baptist Fellowship members are our brothers and sisters in Christ," he said. "Their gifts are Christian gifts."

With the CBF sending an ever-smaller portion of its funds to the SBC, Bozeman advised, "Let this funding die a natural death rather than arbitrarily cutting it off." An abrupt change would "severely disrupt" the budgets of SBC agencies, Bozeman said, and a decision about CBF funds should be left to agency trustees.

But Fellowship leaders, and at least one SBC agency president, said the new policy will not necessarily reduce funding from Fellowship churches, who instead will find other means to support SBC causes.

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, who supports the new policy, said the Fellowship funds "are not from the CBF, they are from churches committed to foreign missions. I would assume anyone designating gifts to the Foreign Mission Board is doing so in obedience to God's leadership... and I hope they will continue."

Churches can send funds directly to the agencies or in some cases through state convention offices and still avoid Cooperative Program channels. However, the Home Mission Board is beginning a study that could penalize state conventions that channel CBF funds.

"CBF exists as a funnel through which Baptist monies are poured," said Cindy Johnson of Gaithersburg, Md., a Fellowship officer. "If the SBC closes off the opening, individual Baptists will be ardent in finding another way through the bottleneck."

Johnson, who attended the SBC as a messenger, said Kendall's description of Fellowship views on abortion and other issues "was not reflective of who I am as a CBF member. And I do not think it is possible to make a blanket characterization of the Fellowship."

Fellowship Coordinator Cecil Sherman said the new policy is intended to hurt the Fellowship's fund-raising ability, but he predicted Fellowship faithful will remain firm. "It may be so many churches will be intimidated back into their fold, and it may be they will move the other way," he said. "Churches can say, 'We'll do what we please.'

"I don't think this will intimidate churches that already have chosen to go with us. They've already paid the price."

Sherman described the new policy as "one more encroachment on the autonomy of the local churches." But supporters of the action — including Kendall, Rankin, and SBC chief executive Morris Chapman — said it does not interfere with local-church freedom.

There are "adequate channels" for churches to send funds directly to the agencies, Chapman told messengers in his report. "If a church wishes to give to SBC causes, we simply ask them to give through our traditional channels."

Sherman said the action is disappointing. "The tragedy is this separates us from some people we care about deeply," he said. "There are some good people working for and in the Southern Baptist Convention — as missionaries, as teachers."

"It's bizarre," he said. "They're ready to turn down good money."

Warner is editor of ABP. Bob Allen, ABP associate editor, and Marv Knox, editor of Kentucky's WESTERN RECORDER, contributed to this story.

SBC PASTOR'S CONFERENCE WRAP-UP...

Diversity fuels messages directed to SBC pastors

By Norman Miller

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — A rainbow has no more diversity of color than the 1994 SBC Pastors' Conference had in speakers, musicians, and themes. Persons attending the June 12-13 meeting heard former SBC presidents, a politician, an evangelist, a layman, a college football coach, an independent Baptist university president, and pastors from across the United States.

SBC church choirs, along with contemporary Christian musicians such as Newsong, Truth, Point of Grace, and the Dove-award winning quartet 4 Him, provided as much melodic inspiration as the sermons reflecting the conference theme, "A Heart for God."

Speaking first at the conference, Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church, Pensacola, Fla., said three simple truths are necessary to have a heart for evangelism: "a soft heart, dirty hands, and an open wallet."

Preaching from the parable of the good Samaritan, Traylor said Christians often decide whether they will serve others based on racial, economic, and religious considerations, but he said the Samaritan was concerned with none of these conditions.

Traylor said, "We've got people on both sides of the road of life, dying, and dirty: the AIDS victim, the alcoholic," and Christians must offer soft hearts, get hands dirty, and open their wallets to help rescue these people.

Jack Kemp, former secretary of Housing and Urban Development, cited suffering fostered by society's "moral ambiguity."

"We face a crisis deeper than crime, deeper than the economy, and much higher and bigger than political partisanship. We face a

crisis of confidence in our very own ideals," said Kemp. "It is the very strip mining of our ideals which leaves men and women and particularly our children unable to believe in anything. The answer to the tears and the fears of mankind is the law and the love of God. All mankind's problems are answered in the life of a babe born in a manger."

Advising his listeners to have "a heart for the family and leadership," Tony Evans said the Bible has answers for hurting families. "God created the family as the first institution of society."

Evans, pastor of Oakcliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, said "messed-up people make for messed-up families" that eventually result in a "messed-up world. If we want a better world, we must create a generation of better people through the church."

We are in a mess "because Christians have withdrawn from culture. We have turned it over to the sinners," said Evans. "Believers must have a heavenly perspective in a hellish environment. We must bring the Bible back to the culture" to save American families.

Introduced as "a family man of the first order," Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden said when he trusted Christ he committed his life "to the service of Christ through football. I am thankful for what God has done for me."

Admitting football is a priority, Bowden emphasized, "It is not THE priority." The importance of FSU football comes after his church, family, and God, he said.

Coaching college football 42 years has taught Bowden that trust and commitment are as important in a relationship with Christ as in

having a winning football program. "God doesn't need my ability," said Bowden. "He just needs my availability. I just make myself available to God and he does all the rest."

The greatest issue in the SBC today is "what are we going to do to win people to Jesus Christ in America and throughout the world," said Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ark. The way to accomplish that, said Floyd, is to get ready for the "fiery" trials of Christian leadership and unashamedly stand tall for God.

Standing tall was what Jesus faced at Gadara, said Calvin Miller, professor of communications and ministry studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. "Jesus commanded evil spirits to come out of a demon-possessed man, and cast them into a herd of swine," said Miller.

"We're still afraid of demons. We let them define our culture for us," he said, exhorting listeners to be courageous in defining to the culture what morality is. "We need to come against our world with a strong defining witness" and quit worrying about being so "user-friendly" and showing how much "fun" church is.

Christian motivational speaker Zig Ziglar said nothing of significance happened in his life until age 45, when he came to know Jesus Christ as his Savior, even though he was baptized at age 12.

Ziglar encouraged pastors to "preach with conviction" as he looked to his years as a salesman, saying, "Selling is a transference of feeling. The pastor's product is faith in Jesus Christ."

Reflecting on the theme, "A Heart for the Church," Larry Wynn, current president of the Georgia Baptist Convention and pastor of the Hebron Church in Dacula, Ga., said, "The greatest book ever written on church growth is the New Testament Book of Acts."

Drawing comparisons between the early church and contemporary churches, Wynn said, "The No. 1 killer of Baptist churches is the word tradition." He said the biggest battles between a pastor and the congregation "make no difference in eternity."

Wynn cited the struggles of a pastor friend who held a "public safety day," inviting 70 policemen, firemen, and other public servants to the church. Some of them were converted to Christ, and the church membership doubled in one week as a result.

Wynn said his friend called and said, "My deacons want to fire me because they are offended they did not get to vote on the public safety day."

James Merritt, pastor of First Church of Snellville, Ga., advised his listeners to return to the "old-time religion."

"We're living in a jet-set, space-aged, modernized, computerized, energized world, and if something is old-fashioned or out-

dated we automatically discard it as useless, and that's a tragedy. But not everything old-fashioned is necessarily out of date," said Merritt, referring to the timelessness of the gospel.

Jerry Falwell encouraged the pastors to give higher priority to prayer, family, and service. He cited a recent survey which indicated pastors spend less than 10 minutes daily in prayer. The pastor of Thomas Road Church and president of Liberty University, both in Lynchburg, Va., said, "Set the clock to rise earlier. Curtail late night television. Successful families don't happen by accident," Falwell said.

Falwell admonished listeners not to counsel, work, socialize, travel, dine, or travel alone with "any woman who is not your wife, even your secretary." He told pastors to "speak often and positively of your wife... build your social life around her... maintain social courtesies... remember her tangibly on special days... and provide for her better than yourself."

Jay Strack, evangelist from Dallas, related the loneliness he experienced as he clung to the leg of his father, who dragged the young Strack across the yard as he left his family.

"I lived with a mom who cried herself to sleep, praying that God would send Daddy home," said Strack. He continued to explain how he turned to drugs and alcohol to relieve his burden. Then, "Jesus lifted my burden from me and placed immediately on me his burden for the world."

The pastors' conference took a nostalgic sentimental turn when the longtime pastor of First Church in Dallas, W.A. Criswell, was honored for his lifetime of

service to Southern Baptists.

Saying no one has stood taller for the inerrancy of Scripture than Criswell, conference president and Georgia pastor Ike Reighard, called on O.S. Hawkins to lead in a time of special recognition for the octogenarian pastor.

A tearful Criswell greeted the crowd's standing ovation, saying, "I am not worthy in any degree of this beautiful tribute. I love you, our convention, and our message of Jesus Christ."

"The world is on fire and the flames are out of control," said Fred Wolfe, pastor of the Cottage Hill Church in Mobile, Ala. "The flames of humanism, secularism, and liberalism have smothered our country." The former president of the Pastors' Conference said the United States is in the same situation that Israel was in when Isaiah caught a vision of God.

Others addressing the conference were Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church in Atlanta; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis; Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church in Jacksonville, Fla.; Rick Stanley, an evangelist from Fayetteville, Ga.; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga.; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Church, Del City, Okla.; John Maxwell, pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego; Lt. Clebe McClary of Pawley's Island, S.C.

Officers for the 1995 SBC Pastors' Conference were elected by acclamation: James Merritt, president; David McKinley, pastor of First Church in Merritt Island, Fla., vice president; and Lee Mabry, pastor of Fortified Hills Church, Smyrna, Ga., secretary/treasurer.

MILLER writes for Southeastern Seminary.

Casino hearing next week

Plans are being finalized for Baptist participation in a June 30 hearing before the Mississippi Gaming Commission that will determine the fate of a proposed casino near Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian, according to the executive director of the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Paul G. Jones II said Baptists across the state have answered CAC's request to write Mississippi's three gaming commissioners to express their opposition to the bid by Spectrum, Inc., to building a multi-level, around-the-clock casino within 400 yards of Gulfshore.

"The response has been enormous. I believe gambling interests will have to conclude that sites in the residential neighborhood around Gulfshore are simply not acceptable for gambling facilities," he pointed out.

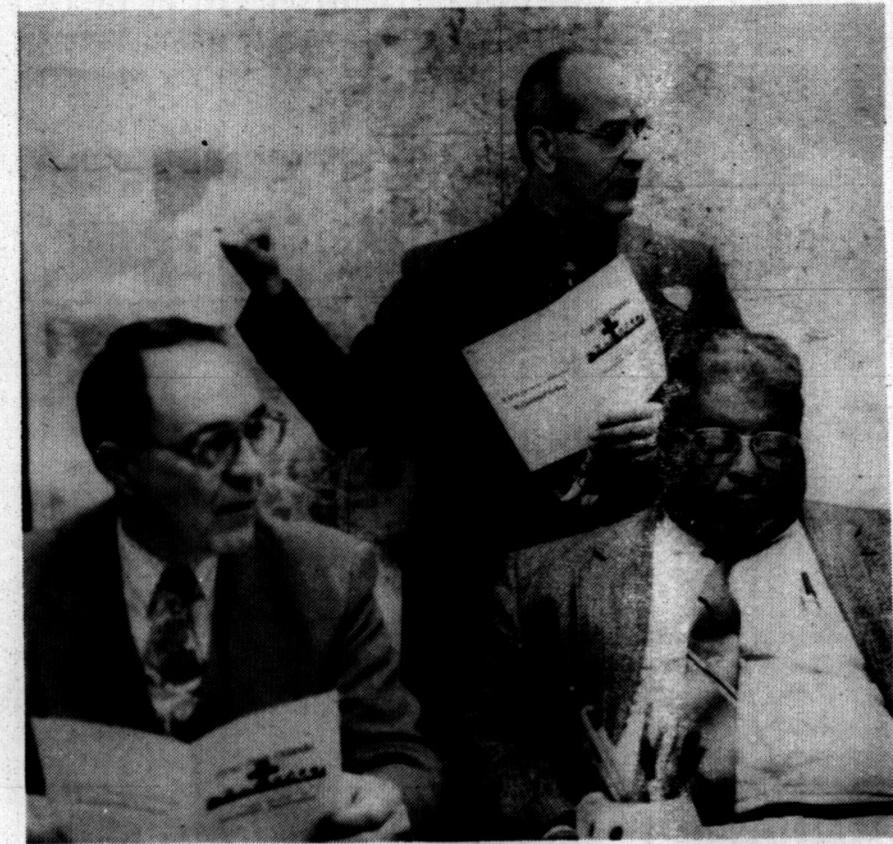
Jones stressed that there is still time for Baptists to get involved by writing personal letters to the gaming commissioners and planning to attend the June 30 hearing, which will be held inside Treasure Bay hotel/casino complex at 1980 Beach Boulevard (U.S. Highway 90) in Biloxi.

Treasure Bay Hotel was formerly known as the Royal D'Iberville Hotel.

Mississippi's gaming commissioners are: Stuart C. Irby (chairman) of Jackson, Robert Engram of Gulfport, and Bill Gresham Jr. of Indianola. The executive director of the gaming commission is Paul Harvey.

They can be contacted at the Mississippi Gaming Commission, P.O. Box 23577, Jackson, MS 39225-3577. Telephone: (601) 359-5700.

For more information on the June 30 hearing and on gambling in general, Jones can be reached at CAC, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.



PLANNING — With a map of Orlando as his launching pad, church starter Ronnie Reynolds challenges Greater Orlando Baptist Association churches to start indigenous satellite missions to reach people in their communities who are not being reached by their own churches. Seated are pastors Dwain Arnett (left) and Clifford Marley. (Photo by Paul Obregon)

BITS & PIECES...

MISSISSIPPIANS IN ORLANDO

Paul Blanchard, director of missions for Winston Association, was nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and received 1,169 votes, but lost. Less than half the registered messengers were present for that vote.



Jerry Clower of Route 4, Liberty, granted several interviews to news media, often at the SBC Radio-Television Commission Booth. In one he spoke on the "True Love Waits" campaign, saying to young people: "Stand alone if you have to."

Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, served on the Committee on Committees, as did First, Jackson, layman **Henry Hederman**. **Roy V. Sims**, layman of First Church, Jackson, served on the Credentials Committee, and **Phil Hanberry** of Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville, served on the Tellers Committee. Ed Young, SBC president, made the appointments.



Porter

Ernest K. Sadler, director of missions for Jackson Association, is the elected secretary for the national body of mission directors.

Jimmy Porter, pastor of First Church, McComb, and Jackson layman **Paul Moak Jr.** were elected to the influential Committee on Nominations.

L. Graham Smith, director of the Department of Church Music, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was named denominational vice president for the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference; **Lewis Oswalt** of Mississippi College was elected to serve as editor of the conference's **Journal**.

Tom and Florence Ann Larrimore of Jackson participated in one of the block parties for the Cross Over Orlando evangelism effort, sponsored by the Home Mission Board. They witnessed to mostly young people and helped distribute 4,366 Bibles.

Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach, and a trustee of the Home Mission Board, made a motion to the HMB Executive Committee to study state conventions channeling funds to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other non-SBC entities. "I think we need to re-think how we do missions in the states that refuse to be loyal to Southern Baptists," he said. "Should we be in partnership with them in the present way?" The motion was approved by a 12-9 vote. In other business, the committee approved 15 new home missionaries and three staff changes.



Blue Mountaineers serve in N.O.

A team of 14 people from the Baptist Student Union at Blue Mountain College served May 9-14 at Suburban Church in New Orleans, where they led Backyard Bible Clubs at four apartment communities and conducted a "Back to the Basics" workshop at night for the youth. Students from the Baptist-affiliated college who helped with the Bible clubs included (back row, from left) Shannon Gibson, Tracy Webb, and Becky Suggs.

WMU ANNUAL MEETING WRAP-UP...

Missionary speakers affirm WMU's role in supporting work

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Christians who expose themselves to the needs and pains of people will find their lives left with not only scars, but tender, new growth given by God.

Baptist women serving in their hometowns and missionaries serving in the world's painful places repeated that message throughout the June 12-13 national annual meeting of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union.

During a business session, WMU members re-elected Carolyn Miller of Huntsville, Ala., national WMU president, and Martha Wenneberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., national WMU recording secretary. Both have served since 1991.

Love stretches as far as it can and "then flings it on over" like a person doing a cartwheel, said Barbara Joiner, a WMU writer and speaker from Columbiana, Ala., who delivered theme interpretations each session based on the meeting's theme, "Growing in Love."

A young woman expecting her ninth child and who lived in poverty-stricken conditions within sight of the steeple of Joiner's church couldn't be helped until she saw the church's people instead of its steeple, Joiner said.

"Missions is God's love calling forth our love," said Heather Barron, a Baptist woman active in missions efforts in Lexington, Ky. His love allows us to follow Christ's example of making friends with outcasts and feeding the hungry — from Appalachia in the United States to the starving masses of Somalia.

Home missionary Diane Lewis of Benton, Ark., said her ministry taught her a lesson in sacrifice when poverty-stricken people she worked with in Arkansas responded with gifts of their own when they learned about starvation in Somalia.

The women scrimped and saved to collect \$30.88 to contribute to Southern Baptist hunger relief.

That money, part of \$2 million Southern Baptists have used to combat hunger, has made a difference in Somalia, said Ken Perkins, strategy coordinator for work in Somalia.

Lola Bell H. Perry dies

Lola Bell Hogan Perry of Florence, mother of Bobby Perry, director of missions for Gulf Coast Association, died of heart failure June 15 at Rankin Medical Center, Brandon. Services were held June 17 at First Church, Florence.

Mrs. Perry, a native of Fruithurst, Ala., was a member of First Church, Florence.

Survivors also include sons Huey, with the Chaplains Division, Home Mission Board; Randall, pastor in Panama City, Fla.; O.E. and Jerry, both of Florence; daughter Robbie Triggs of Madison; 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Thousands have died, said Perkins, recounting the story of a nine-pound, 3-year-old Somali girl he found near death on bare bed springs in a makeshift hospital.

Moved to tears, he gently caressed her cheek and "from somewhere down deep" she summoned a smile. She was dead the next day.

"We have cried like babies in the midst of hunger, pain, and death for the past three years," said Perkins.

"But I want to let 50,000 people you have kept alive say thank you," Perkins added with emotion as he thanked the women for their prayers and support.

"If you stop doing what you're doing, we're coming home," said Perkins' wife Beth. "We couldn't make it without you."

William Harrington, a medical missionary in Tanzania, reminded the WMU audience of the divine power that allows missionaries to endure the heartaches they encounter daily.

"Most of us recognize that we have faced difficulties which are greater than our human ability to overcome them, but repeatedly we have seen the faithfulness of God redeem many disastrous situa-

tions," Harrington said. "It's awesome to realize that the creator of the universe has intervened in your work."

Christians aren't visible in the world until they begin living out their faith in love, he said.

"If we don't take risks, our conformity will continue to camouflage us, and we Christians will remain invisible. We can shout what we believe at each other or from the mountaintop, but until we risk enough to be what we preach, the world will refuse to listen to the good news we claim to represent," Harrington said.

Heberto Becerra echoed Harrington, declaring: "If we decide to return to the Scripture and to love and to the lordship of the Holy Spirit, the impact that this needy world would receive would move the very gates of hell."

"We are a people with the potential to set off a spiritual bomb stronger than those launched in World War II," said Becerra, a Spanish-speaking home missionary working in Plantation, Fla.

"The gunpowder is in the hands of men but the flames are in the hands of WMU. The order to detonate has been given. What are we waiting for?"

LifeAnswers



Ron Mumbwer, Ed.D
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

As a new mother-in-law, how can I be a positive part of my daughter and son-in-law's relationship?

Your desire to be a positive part of their relationship is exactly how you should feel at this stage. Give them space, but don't abandon them. Let them have time for themselves, but let them know that you are available if needed. Encourage commitment, not selfishness. Allow them to work out their differences without your becoming their therapist. Encourage them to find their own solutions to problems without using you as a way to feel better about their complaints.

A great resource that will be helpful to both you and your children is the book series, **52 Ways to be a Great Mother-In-Law**, available at Maranatha Bookstores.

You keep talking about taking time for myself, but I'm surprised I even found the time to write this. I need some short suggestions!

— Keep a novel handy at all

times so you can read a page or two when you have a few minutes.

— Use a "thought for the day" flip calendar each morning as your devotional starter. Read the thought, think about the idea, and then meditate on it for another minute.

— Take up a hobby like crossword puzzles, needlecraft, sports, or whatever appeals to you and make time each week to enjoy it.

— Do one good deed daily.

— Say "thank you" when given a compliment.

— Perform stretching exercises for your neck and fingers.

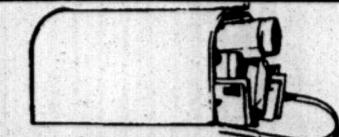
— Walk or take the stairs rather than driving or riding the elevator.

— Turn off the car radio and enjoy the silence. Use the time to pray or review your devotional thought for the day.

— Concentrate on smiling at others, and then watch their reactions!

Take a stand for yourself. Remember: if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



Letters to the editor



Damage control?

Editor:

"Who Then?", an article (editorial?) by editor Mark Coppenger (SBC Life, June/July 1994) is a masterful attempt to blame the editors of state papers for the firestorm of outrage from grassroots Southern Baptists over the firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell Dilday. Coppenger says the nearly universal criticism of seminary trustees by state paper editors is evidence of their unfair bias against the fundamental/conservative resurgence.

Fascinating spin. Truth is, claims of unfair bias tend to be leveled at anyone who holds a different opinion and says so loudly! It boggles my mind to imagine how Coppenger can call the men who had Dilday's door locks changed "conscientious trustees;" it certainly is the writing of a political spin-doctor to claim the state papers "heap abuse on good trustees." Good trustees? My 8-year-old daughter knows the difference between good and bad. Should I ask her to assist Coppenger with his choice of adjectives?

I am amazed at the need for the editor of this SBC Executive Committee publication to devote two full pages in a 24-page magazine to this issue. Could it be... damage control?

I commend you, Editor, for reporting the full range of stories that impact Southern Baptists. Give Mississippi Baptists the whole truth and let us decide how God will have us respond.

Doug Haney
Associate pastor in music
First Church
Meridian

Obey God, not men

Editor:

In regard to your editorial in **The Baptist Record** (June 9), "Jerry Falwell and the SBC," it would do all Southern Baptists good to heed what God says concerning such individuals who "preach" such and note it: "Now I beseech you, brethren, and mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17). Concerning that doctrine (the Bible/God's Word), we are instructed in the book of Acts to obey God rather than men!

You seem to have a problem with the past conservative presidents choosing a man to run as president. Why? They have never denied doing it, and you are as free as any other Southern Baptist to vote against that one. Doesn't the Bible tell us, though, that there is wisdom in the council of many (Prov. 11:14)?

If you stand by what you have implied by this editorial, you not only oppose pastoral leadership in the local church but you also oppose pastors and deacons working together in order to lead the local church in God's way. Freedom of the "press" and freedom to "crucify" are not the same. The first is of God, while the latter is of...

Keith D. Swartz, pastor
Friendship Church
Ellisville

Stands with Yancey

Editor:

I read with interest the guest editorial, "SBC needs a modern-day Solomon" in your May 26

issue. My reaction was: "Instead of Solomon, we need a Jonah!" God sent Jonah to Nineveh with a strong message. He delivered this message, the people repented, and God did not destroy the city.

As I thought of this biblical prophet, I remembered the call from our own Rex Yancey in February of this year. If I remember correctly, he called on each of us to confess that we have had a part in the conflict in the SBC. He further called on us to join him in prayer with an attitude of repentance seeking God's forgiveness.

I have not heard or read all that has been said or written about the trouble in the SBC during the past 16 years. But in all that I have heard and read, Rex Yancey is the first leader at any level whom I have heard call for this kind of confession and commitment from us as Southern Baptists. Whether that message could be considered the message of a Solomon or the message of a Jonah, I stand with (Yancey). I believe these are the words of a modern-day prophet.

My wife and I have joined Yancey in this attitude of prayer and we are eagerly anticipating attending the 1994 Mississippi Baptist Convention to see the great blessings God is going to pour out on us at that time.

Rob Sugg, missionary
Tainan, Taiwan

Protect Gulfshore

Editor:

I am writing in reference to Donald R. Windham's letter concerning the giving up and selling our Gulf Coast assembly because of the possibility of a casino being built nearby. I strongly feel that this is not the way for us Christians to handle this situation. I think that for too long Christians have stepped aside and let the world have their way. We should go to the hearing and write letters to the Gaming Commission and voice our beliefs. I am a 17-year-old Baptist youth who has gone to

the Gulfshore Assembly for the past three years, and am currently preparing for another visit there. I know firsthand how many lives the Assembly changes each year. It is a place we can go to get away from the outside world and we need to keep it there as a Christian haven for generations to come.

Randi Bowman
Merigold

Blessed by Singers

Editor:

My pastor, Rick Spencer, a Mississippian (as are three other men on our staff), has just passed on to me a copy of the June 2 issue of **The Baptist Record**. In your "Looking back..." column (Page 1) I read of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen returning from a mission trip to Brazil 20 years ago.

Reading those words brought back many fond memories of that singing group led by my seminary classmate and friend Dan C. Hall. I served as a missionary to Brazil for 35 years and heard many wonderful singing groups come on missions trips, but what struck me about that group was the way they mingled and so thoroughly identified with the Brazilians with whom they came into contact. They were the best and left a lasting impression on many. They were truly ambassadors for Christ that Mississippi had every reason to be proud of.

Bill H. Ichter
Minister to senior adults
First Church
Minden, La.

to encompass an entire realm of thought, into so simple a phrase!

Susan Anthony
Raymond

Wants whole story

Editor:

I have tried to follow the story about the firing of Russell Dilday in **The Baptist Record**. It must be an important story because there have been so very many articles about this in the last several issues of this paper. I am trying to determine what the other side of this story is.

Finally, I see an article entitled, "Coppenger says Baptist media didn't tell all on Dilday firing." I thought this would outline the differences the trustees had with Dilday, but instead an argument presenting Coppenger as a man with ulterior motives ensued. There was no mention at all of the points he must have made in his two-page article.

What were Russell Dilday's core beliefs? What were his positions on issues such as abortion and homosexuality? How did he relate biblical doctrine to curriculum? I don't even know if any of my questions are relevant to the dispute. Perhaps an article could be published by someone who favored Dilday's firing. As the trustees continue to be criticized, I would like enough information to form an opinion as to whether the criticism is warranted.

Karen Blakeney
Gulfport

Slots open, Alaska trip

Due to three cancellations, two men and one woman are needed to fill positions with a volunteer construction team which will travel to the Anchorage, Alaska, area July 25-Aug. 5.

Tickets for the three positions have already been purchased, so the need to fill them is urgent.

To volunteer, or for more information, call (601) 726-9084. Or contact Olyn Roberts at 849 McCully Rd., Louisville, MS 39339, phone (601) 773-5670.

Correction

In an article published in the June 9 issue of **The Baptist Record** ("Southaven's Trinity Church has 'something exciting' in growth"), Trinity Church and Colonial Hills Church, both in Southaven, were listed as the only two Mississippi churches to have won multiple Eagle awards from the Baptist Sunday School Board. That statement is incorrect.

First Church, Madison, has won two Eagles — one in February 1993 (while the church was without a pastor), the second in February 1994.

John Temple is pastor at First, Madison.

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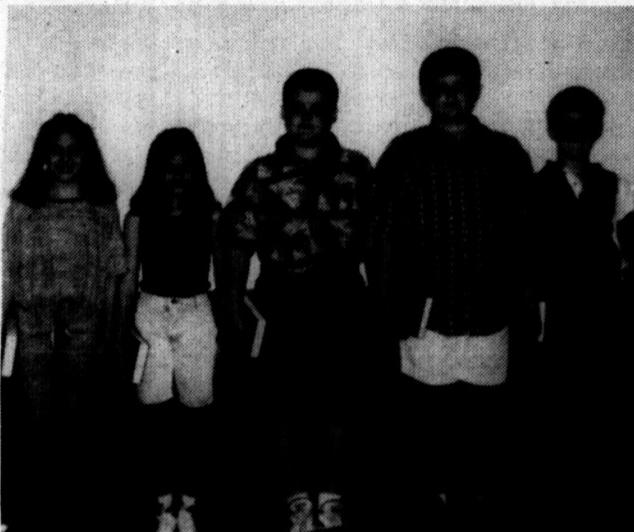
Just for the Record



Maybank Church, Hattiesburg, recently held a ground breaking ceremony for its new education building. Above left, Mitch Murphy and his parents Scott and Beth turn the shovel for the Mitchell Music Suite, part of the building project. Mrs. Murphy is the granddaughter of Bill and Betty Mitchell, for whom the



suite is named. In the photo at right, Jimmy Dale and Fred Hatten turn the first shovel of dirt for the Van C. Windham Memorial Building, named for Mrs. Hatten's father. Her mother is shown in wheelchair at left. The church plans to complete the project debt-free. George Aultman is pastor.

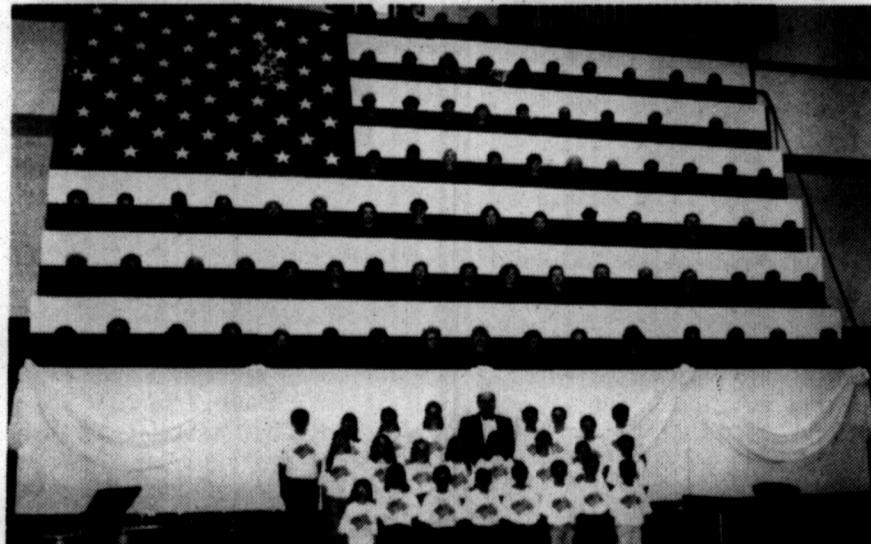


Five children from Macedonia Church, Petal, participated in Bible drills for 1994. They are (left to right): Andrea Byrd, Amy Hicks, Jeremy Bolling, Michael Herrington, and Shea Magee. Four were state winners.

The Greater Syracuse Association in New York is seeking persons for the position of director of missions. Send resumes to David P. Harris, P.O. Box 156, Manlius, New York, 13104.

New Life Fellowship Church, Jackson, will hold its second annual Men's Day Observance Program on June 26 at 2:30 p.m. with guest speaker Judge Robert Gibbs Jr. This year's theme will be "Christian Men Liberated Through Christ." Charles A. Thurman is pastor.

The Metro-East (Illinois)



First Church, Clinton, will present its annual program, "Patriotic Splendor," July 2 at 5 and 7:30 p.m., and July 3 at 10:30 a.m. The program is a service in patriotic songs and military hymns sung by the chancel choir. For more information, call Bill Bacon, minister of music, at (601) 924-6716.

Bethlehem Church, Simpson

Homecomings

Shubuta: June 26; regular service times; lunch in U.C. Wells annex; Avery Jones, guest speaker; Mike Moss, music.

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Highland Church, Vicksburg, recently recognized its Acteens under the theme, "My Place in the World," for their accomplishments in StudiAct. Those recognized (left to right) were Carrie Handley, Melissa Herrington, Nicki Richmond, Amanda Richardson, Gina Harrison, Mindy Shinn, Tara Hall, Rachel Patten, Erin Loper, Whitney Richardson, Tina Shinn, Tyanne Conrad, and Brea Hugley. Jan Cossitt, state Acteens consultant, presented the awards. Jackie Richardson is Acteens leader. Caley Nichols is interim pastor.

Staff Changes



Sauls Valley Church, Monticello, recently recognized two Acteens in a special service under the theme "Becoming." Pictured are Anna Mullins, left, and Angie Mullins. Douglas Lee is pastor.

Association seeks a person to fill the position of director of church and community ministries. Send resumes to: Metro-East Baptist Association, 15 Longacre Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208; or call Tommy Cupples, director of missions, at (618) 234-8515.

First Church, Jackson, will host an Inductive Word Study workshop, Aug. 4-6, to help participants learn to discern biblical truths. For more information, call Dixie Ball at (601) 981-8938, or Jean Greer at (601) 956-4706.

Association, will hold a "Fun in the Sun" Day June 25 from 4-7 p.m. on the Brandi Eubanks Field. A gospel singing will be presented at 7 p.m. by the Shepherds of Love.

Wansley Farms near Laurel had 400-500 in attendance for both nights of its Gospel Jubilee, May 27-28. Bailey Smith, Atlanta evangelist, was preacher for the event. There were several decisions reported, as well as three saved. Wansley Farms is part of the ministry of Richard and Gina Headrick.

of activities at First, Jackson. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.

Michael Weeks has been called to pastor Pleasant Hills Church, Olive Branch. Weeks is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He serves as conference leader for Mississippi Baptists in the areas of Sunday School and Brotherhood.

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MBMC adds community hospitals to powerful healthcare cooperative

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) has agreed to sponsor two more hospitals in a partnership program that will enable the smaller facilities to hold down costs through group purchasing and other cost management techniques.

The King's Daughters Hospital in Greenville and Magee General Hospital in Magee have become the newest affiliate members of Premier Health Alliance, a national healthcare cooperative owned by 52 leading healthcare providers in 42 cities around the U.S.

MBMC is the only Premier hospital in Mississippi, and also sponsors affiliates Rankin Medical Center in Brandon, Winston County Medical Center in Louisburg, King's Daughters Hospital in Yazoo City.

Premier's \$1 billion group purchasing power offers hospitals access to discounted contracts for supplies and services. The organization also supports development

of healthcare networks, managed care programs, and optimum quality management.

"Thanks to improved purchasing efficiencies available through Premier, we anticipate savings in excess of \$107,000 within our first year of affiliation," said Don Fisher, administrator of King's Daughters in Greenville.

Ray Terrell, administrator at Magee General Hospital, projected immediate savings of \$68,000 at his facility.

MBMC reported 1993 savings of nearly \$450,000 by utilizing the Premier system.

Kent Strum, MBMC chief executive officer, stressed the medical center's commitment to the success of community hospitals.

"Our overriding goal is to help meet the needs of physicians and patients while supporting these community hospitals in their role as the first-choice, local provider of health care services," he said.

Homecomings

Pilgrim's Rest, Ethel: June 26; 10:45 a.m.; Leon Emery, Jackson, guest speaker; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing; no night services; update on building program; Walter Hines, pastor.

Mt. Nebo, Collinsville: June 26; worship, 10 a.m.; potluck lunch, noon; afternoon service, 1:30; memorial service, cemetery association reports, special music; Danny Purser, pastor, speaker.

Palestine, Harrisville: June 26; Duane Bradford, guest speaker; dinner on the ground; afternoon singing, 1; day's offerings will go to the cemetery fund.

Calvary, Eupora: June 26; lunch in fellowship hall; Marion Tumberlinson, pastor.

Homewood (Scott): June 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11; lunch in fellowship hall; singing 1:30 p.m. with the Revelations; James T. Maddox, pastor.

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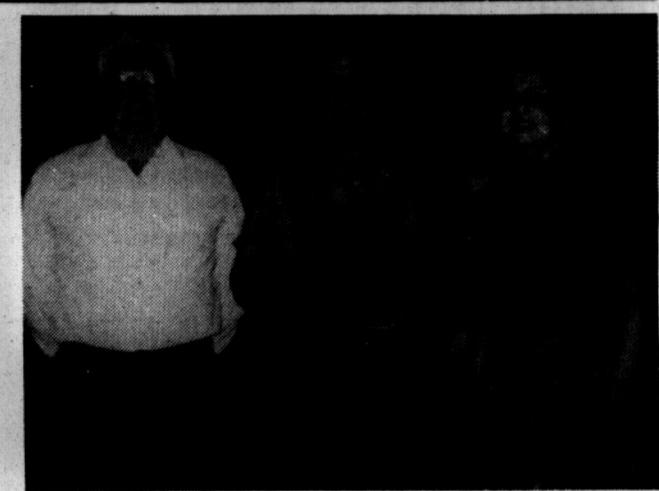
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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News



Bethel Church, Monticello, recently honored **Sherrod Rayborn** (above, center) and his wife **Madeleine** (right) on his 25th anniversary as minister of music for the congregation. As part of the day's activities, Doug Rouse of Hattiesburg was guest speaker for the morning worship. **Paul E. Smith** (left) is pastor.



Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, recently honored **James Lofton** (center) and his wife **June** (right) on his retirement after 19 years as grounds keeper and custodian for the church. **Ernest Lott** (left) personnel committee chairman, presented Lofton with a plaque of appreciation. **Joe Campbell** is pastor.



Ronald Douglas "J.R." Walley Jr. (right) was recently licensed to the ministry by Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs. He has joined the staff of Rocky Creek, Lucedale, as minister of music and youth. He previously served as minister of music at Bayou View Church, Gulfport. **David Grayson** (left) is pastor, Belle Fountain.



Fairview Church (Itawamba) recently honored its pastor, **Gene O'Brian** (second from right), and his wife **Anena** (right) for his 11 years of service to the congregation. **G.C. Sansing** (second from left) of Columbus, O'Brian's uncle, was special speaker for the day. **Leslie Sansing** (left) was also present.



Bay Springs Church recently honored its pastor, **Clyde Little** (right) and his wife (second from right) upon their 10th anniversary of service to the congregation. Gifts to the couple from the church included a plaque, a silver tray, and a check for \$2,500, presented by **Jimmy Nix** (left) and **Ray Robinson** (second from left).

Revival Dates

Calvary, Eupora: June 26-July 1; 7 nightly; **Marty Comer**, Tupelo, evangelist; **Marion Tumberlinson**, pastor.

Faith, Silver Creek: June 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; **Jimmy Magee**, Monticello, evangelist; **James E. Netherland**, Pearl, music; **John L. Jones**, pastor.

Homewood (Scott): June 26-29; 7:30 nightly; **Hueston Adkins**, Sylvarena, evangelist; **James T. Maddox**, pastor.

7:30 nightly; **Billy Guest**, Magee, evangelist; **Ira Pollard**, Starkville, music; **Donald Riley**, pastor.

Wesson (Copiah): June 26-29; 7 nightly; **Jim Futral**, Jackson, evangelist; **Dale Heard**, Wesson, music; **Mike Carr**, pastor.

WSLI RADIO AM 930 JACKSON

Carson Ridge, Ethel: July 17-22;

The graying of America — As lifespans lengthen, elder abuse occurrence rises

They call it the "Red-tail-light" syndrome. The name refers to the sight of tail-lights as they leave the scene of an elder abandonment — a senior adult being abandoned by his or her family or caretakers.

The red tail-light syndrome becomes acute around holidays, when families are stretched financially and emotionally. Sometimes something snaps, and Pop is abandoned.

Statistics say there are 70,000 elders abandoned each year. US News & World Report says you can add to that number 140,000 cases of suspected elder abuse each year. Only one in eight elder abuse cases ever gets to the authorities.

A Congressional report says 1.5 million citizens are abused every year, most of the abuse committed by the victim's own flesh and blood.

Elder abuse may take many forms. Physical abuse such as slapping and beating are the most obvious. Financial exploitation (forcing an elder to turn over stocks or funds, mismanaging money), neglect, psychological abuse (verbal harassment, withholding companionship), and violations of rights such as privacy or confinement are also common.

It's a painful picture: Newsweek (Oct. 4, 1993 issue) refers to the increased numbers in the older segment of our population as the "Gray Nineties."

The number of adults over 65 will double in the next 40 years, with the over-85 segment being the fastest growing. Nearly half of the over-85 group will have

accounts for 35% of all health spending. Some \$49 billion is being spent now on nursing homes for the 1.6 million patients.

Relatives provide the long-term care in about three-fourths of cases. Chronic diseases add greater burdens. Coontz observes that elder care problems are at least as great a cause for employee absenteeism and stress as child care problems.

Other than seeing this as a way to get even with your children, what can be done? What can the church do to minister more effectively to the 1.5 million abused?

"Think Ahead and Plan Ahead" is the name of a chapter in *Your Retirement* by Herbert Askwith. He declares that only one person in 10 plans for his or her retirement. Planning to avert financial crises can prevent being dependent on family members as an older adult.

When Crisis Comes Home, by M. John Lepper, points out that sooner or later, crisis comes to every family. The National Inter-faith Coalition on Aging points to the elder adult as being a treasury of assets. "Our elders are teaching, who is learning?" Your children could be missing a lot of wisdom if they have little or no contact with the elderly.

The church needs to be aware. Facilities, books, and programs geared to the elderly will bless any church. Practice valuing the aged; remember Exodus 20:12, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land...."

We have Mother's Day Out programs in which the church cares for children



VITAL VOLUNTEER — Volunteer Hugh Norris, 69, holds a box of groceries he has packed for LOVE, INC (In the Name of Christ), a food ministry of the Noonday Baptist Association in metro-Atlanta. Noonday has been called a model for its use of volunteers for ministries locally and abroad. (BP photo by David Winfrey)

The National Council on the Aging, Inc. is a non-profit private organization. You can join it. It publishes:

Caregiving Tips
Coming of Age in America
Long-term Care Choices
Developing Adult Day Care
A Memory Retention
Course for the Aged

Write: The National Council on the Aging, Inc., 409 Third Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.



— how about a Senior's Day Care program where the elderly can be left for a while?

Begin a support group for people who are caring for aged parents. They face daily frustrations and often feel out of control. They need help.

Prevent your own abuse

Remain sociable as you age.
Rather than resulting in protection, isolation often results in abuse. If you must move into a relative's home or make other living arrangements, don't lose contact with old friends and neighbors.

Maintain your own telephone and mail service. When living with someone else, insist on the right to use a phone whenever you want. (Even consider having your own separate number.) Don't let anyone open your mail for you, even if the person is just trying to be thoughtful.

Don't let anyone keep details of your finances or property man-

agement from you.
Don't let yourself feel guilty if you must move in with a family member.

Realize abuse happens, even to people like you with family members and friends like yours.

Don't excuse an abuser. Frustrations and fears may tempt anyone to act unseemly at times, but this must never lead to abuse. If anyone abuses you, it is not your fault. The person has made a bad choice. And the person should not be allowed to do it again.

Maintain your dignity and be true to yourself.



STILL GOING STRONG — Southern Baptist volunteers Burton de Wolfe Davis (right) and his wife Sarah Blanch (left), greet patients waiting for treatment at a mobile medical clinic several hours from Fortaleza, Brazil. The Davises, ages 84 and 83, respectively, started a Baptist hospital, school, and church in Fort-

aleza during more than 30 years as missionaries there. Since retirement in 1975, the couple has returned a dozen times to the area to lead a team of about 30 medical volunteers. During the Davises' last trip in March, volunteers treated 3,509 Brazilians. (BP photo by John Wright)

Uniform God gives us victory



By Doug Bain
Exodus 14

Deliverance through chaos (vv. 21-22). If we were to allow water to represent the primeval forces of chaos, as it did in the ancient thought world, the Exodus text takes on an added dimension. As an infant on the river, Moses emerges protected in a world of chaos. Striking the rock for water, he is finally denied entry into Canaan by forces of chaos. In the victory at sea, Moses leads a people through chaos into nation status. The retelling of the Moses saga in Hebrew culture may have had something of this impact. The Exodus deliverance was framed in numerous other ways as well, for instance as a battle won by the Divine Warrior (see Chapter 15). God is forever at hand to deliver from the chaotic primeval forces that bring disorder to our universes.

Deliverance hindered the oppressor (vv. 23-25). The text says God "threw the Egyptian army into a panic." They had painted themselves into a corner. They were in literally too deep. Verse 25 (NRSV) indicates that God "clogged their chariot wheels." In a panic with clogged wheels was not a good place to be for those intent on conquest or escape. Aggressive offense turned to hopeless defense. The unbelieving oppressors became the oppressed, believing too late that "the Lord is fighting for the Israelites against us."

Deliverance involved destruction (vv. 26-28). Ancient thought was aware of a double-edged aspect in life. The same Greek word that meant medicine also meant poison and the same word that meant to loose also meant to destroy. And what an odd phenomenon here — the same water that meant deliverance for the Hebrews meant destruction for the Egyptians. Whatever geographical route the Hebrews followed in their exit from Egypt and whatever secondary causes may have aided the passage through the water, succeeding generations were given to understand that the Lord had provided the deliverance. "The Egyptians tried to escape... but the Lord threw them into the sea."

Deliverance calls for dedication (vv. 29-31). "The Lord saved... Israel saw... the people feared... the people believed." Regardless of how the route may be traced and how the deliverance happened, the emergence from Egyptian territory was by divine intervention. Regardless of whether the majority of the people were conscious of God's activity at the time, later reflection through the eyes of faith could see God was at work. And as later generations would read the account, they too would situate themselves within God's purposes. To hear how God gives the victory in the past is to experience an invitation to victory now.

Through deliverance at the exodus event, the first representative people was formed. Through deliverance at the cross event, the new representative people was formed.

The text also suggests for us that God opens a path through the primeval forces of chaos that hold us in bondage, a path through the chaos that stands between us and Canaan territory. Whatever the enemy that may oppress us (negative attitudes, guilt, habit patterns, drivens, fear, inadequacy, to name a few), God can deal with the very heart of that oppression. In the heart of the Pharaoh's own household Moses was protected. In the heart of the Pharaoh himself God was at work to change his mind. Whatever the primeval chaos at work, God can open a path through our chaotic turmoil and move us toward a new experience of freedom and purpose.

At the exodus God "takes away the stone" so that a resurrection can get underway, so that a people can move from death to life. God opens the route through our oppressive circumstances, upending the chariots of the "oppressor" and moving us toward new identity and a new history.

The national and physical deliverance of the Hebrew nation is a profound model for knowing personal and spiritual deliverance. Deliverance spiritually is at the inner level where the enemy and the oppressor are much more subtle, but the same God is at work to give the victory through Christ. We are "more than conquerors" in Christ as God gives us victory!

Bain is professor, biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

Bible Book Jesus' appearance in Galilee



By Dan Howard
John 21

There is a Spanish story of a father and son who had become estranged. The son ran away, and the father set off to find him. He searched for months to no avail. Finally, in a last desperate effort to find him, the father put an ad in a Madrid newspaper. The ad read: "Dear Paco, meet me in front of this newspaper office at noon on Saturday. All is forgiven. I love you. Your father." On the designated Saturday 800 Pacos showed up, looking for forgiveness and love from their fathers.

Jesus came looking for Peter to share a message of forgiveness with him. Jesus has a message of forgiveness for us. If we will come to Jesus we can find forgiveness and acceptance no matter what sin we have committed.

The miraculous catch of fish (vv. 3-6). Seven of the disciples were together in a home by the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee). Peter stated in verse 3 that he was going fishing. His decision to go fishing was not an indication that he was returning to the fishing business which he left to follow Jesus. He was possibly wanting to provide food for them while they waited for Jesus or just to be busy doing something. The other disciples joined him.

The fishing was best on the Sea of Galilee at night. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the day began to dawn Jesus appeared on the shore. Jesus questioned them about their success at catching any fish. The disciples did not recognize him. Jesus then instructed them to cast their net on the right side of the ship. When they obeyed Jesus' instructions, they caught so many fish they could not bring them into the boat. Jesus may have been trying to teach them that their own strength and abilities were not adequate for the task ahead of them. They must learn to depend on him and follow him.

Jesus and his disciples share breakfast (vv. 12-14). Jesus had prepared breakfast for the disciples when they came ashore. They had been present for many of Jesus' miracles, and they recognized him after this miracle of catching the 153 fish. Jesus serving them the bread and fish for breakfast possibly reminded them of the bread and juice Jesus gave them at the Lord's Supper before his crucifixion. John wanted there to be no mistake about the identity of Jesus. Jesus was alive. John stated in verse 14 that this was the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples as a group.

Jesus' charge to Peter (vv. 15-19). After breakfast Jesus begins to question Peter. The first question was, "Do you love (*agape*) me more than these?" The "these" could have referred to fish nets, fish, boat, etc., or to the other disciples. It may be that Jesus left this unspecific so that it could refer to anything or any person. Peter stated, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love (*phileo*) you. Jesus was asking Peter if he loved (*agape*) him more than others. Peter responded by using a different word for love, *phileo*. *Phileo* is the type of love between two brothers. *Agape* is God's love.

In the second question Jesus asked Peter in verse 16 if he loved with God's love (*agape*). Again Peter responded affirmatively and used the word "*phileo*" for love.

In verse 17 Jesus asked Peter a third time if he loved him. This may have been a test of Peter's loyalty and genuineness. This time Jesus changed his word for love to the word Peter was using, *phileo*. Peter's response a third time was, "You know that I love (*phileo*) you."

Jesus seems to be trying to elevate Peter and the other disciples' level of love to God's love. Jesus demonstrated *agape* love to us during his life.

Each time Peter responded with "Yes, I love you," Jesus gave him a ministry responsibility of feeding and shepherding the sheep. Peter was to feed, that is, teach the church the Word of God. Peter was also commissioned to shepherd the church. That is, he was to do all the work of a shepherd in caring for the sheep of God.

Christ issues a call of total commitment to Peter in verses 18 and 19. This call involved walking as the Holy Spirit leads, suffering persecution, and following Christ even to the point of dying for him.

Do you love the Lord? Feed and shepherd his sheep.
Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

Life and Work Living with hope



By Billie Buckley
Habakkuk 2, 3

The word "hope" disturbs me even though it is one of the big three in our Christian vocabulary — the other two being faith and love. At times I don't feel comfortable around it.

We hope to see the sunny side of life, and it rains 40 days and nights. We hope to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, but someone erases the rainbow. We hope for the best, knock on wood, and the dominoes all fall down on our hope.

So you see, I'm always shy around this word. Habakkuk has something to say to me on this subject.

Hope is not wishful thinking (2:18-20). Hope is affirming God's superior presence. The prophet questioned the value of relying on idols and declared the inspiring presence of the Lord.

Hope can only be authentic as it is heard singing, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness... on Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand."

This hope is given to me as a gift and provides me with confidence in all the sinking sands of my life. This is not wishful thinking; this is the reality of his presence — this is the solid rock I stand on.

Hope is not yearning for good to happen (3:1-2).

Hope is a prayer for merciful intervention. Reverently, the prophet asked the Lord to intervene with mercy just as he had in times past. Times of adversity lead us to approach God with awe, asking him for a display of his power and mercy.

Great teams do not run out on the fields or courts and just yearn for something good to happen. They pay the price to win.

Neither do authentic Christians run out on the court and hope to win. They, too, pay the price. That price is an unshakable trust in their Lord and his commitment to them — one of mercy, yet power.

Hope is not confidence in ourselves (3:16).

Habakkuk's confidence came not in remembering what he had done in the past, but in remembering God's faithfulness during turbulent times. This confidence gave him hope that God would act again to accomplish his purposes.

It is only as we get to know God well that this by-product of hope will be available to us. This hope is a confident expectation in Christ to see us through by his grace and power and not our own.

You may read about this in many places in the Bible. Here is one: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Hope is not being a cock-eyed optimist (3:17-19). Hope is resolving to rejoice in the Lord even when circumstances are at their worst. Habakkuk foresaw disaster coming; yet he failed to give up his hope.

My part in this hope relationship is to move, to go for it. I do this not by becoming a cock-eyed optimist, but by practicing — practicing the presence of God in my daily struggles and in my disasters.

This daily practice strengthens me to move into new understanding, new faith, new hope, and new action. Not only will it be new, but it will be real and authentic and unshakable. That is reason to rejoice in the Lord. Again, I say rejoice.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.

WORLD CHANGERS

Southern Baptist Youth Making A Difference

SBC BUSINESS SESSIONS...

Messengers approve some controversial resolutions among 12

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Most discussed of the 12 resolutions adopted by messengers to the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention were two dealing with relationships with Roman Catholics and the SBC trustee system.

One called for cooperation with Roman Catholics in addressing moral concerns while reasserting Southern Baptists' commitment to share the gospel "with all people everywhere." The other affirmed the SBC trustee system while asking trustees and administrators of agencies to govern according to biblical principles.

Messengers also approved resolutions:

- favoring the deletion of the category of religion from proposed federal guidelines on harassment in the work place;
- supporting efforts to reform health care in the United States but opposing any plan which includes such aspects as abortion and rationing of medical care;
- condemning the Clinton administration's effort to introduce RU-486, the French abortion pill, into this country and urging support for a boycott of companies responsible for production of the drug;
- commending the 1993 Theological Study Committee report to the convention's agencies and institutions;
- opposing experimental educational programs, such as Outcome-based Education, which potentially undermine biblical values and "traditional standards of excellence;"
- commending the veterans of World War II on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of D-Day and remembering God sovereignly rules over all countries;
- affirming teenagers who have made commitments to remain sexually abstinent until marriage as part of the True Love Waits campaign;
- calling for Southern Baptists to recommit themselves to meet the needs of the hungry;
- encouraging Christians to minister to those with AIDS;
- expressing appreciation to the host city, Orlando, and Southern Baptists helping with the meeting.

Only the resolution on health care reform passed by less than an overwhelming margin. Messengers still approved it comfortably.

The resolution on religious harassment in the work place even prompted a letter from President Bill Clinton before it was acted on by messengers.

On June 15, Clinton, a member of a Southern Baptist church, sent by facsimile a letter to H. Edwin Young, SBC president, and Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, expressing his willingness to work with the CLC and other organizations on the proposed regulations by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The president stopped short of making a commitment to remove religion from the guidelines. Clinton reiterated his support for religious liberty and said he was confident a new EEOC chairman, upon taking office, would review public comments and work to issue rules which are consistent with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

The resolution on "Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics" provided the most debate. It affirms that justification is based on "grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone." It also encourages the interfaith witness department of the Home Mission Board to continue Southern Baptist-Roman Catholic conversations.

Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and Larry Lewis, president of the SBC Home Mission Board, joined evangelical and Roman Catholic leaders earlier this year in signing a document, "Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium." It has been widely debated, especially because of concerns the document may undercut missions and evangelism.

The trustees' March firing of Southwestern Seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. prompted the resolution on trustees and administrators.

The resolution expresses gratitude to trustees and administrators of SBC agencies and institutions. It also asks them to govern with diligence, to demonstrate love and service in their work, and to use biblical wisdom in facing "potentially divisive issues." It encourages them to manifest wisdom which, according to James 3:17, is "pure, peacable, reasonable, conciliatory, and filled with compassion and kind actions."

An attempt to amend the resolution to note past and present investigations of some SBC seminaries by accrediting agencies and to urge seminary trustees specifically to be more sensitive failed overwhelmingly.

The resolution passed by a nearly unanimous vote.

Joel Gregory writing book about the "seduction" of super church

By Toby Druin

DALLAS (ABP) — Joel Gregory is writing a book about his experiences at First Church of Dallas, where he abruptly resigned a 21-month pastorate in 1992, but he said he "harbors no ill will or bitterness" and will not "trash" the church or its senior pastor, W. A. Criswell.

Too Great a Temptation: The Seductive Power of America's Super Church is the title of the book to be released in early October by The Summit Group, a Fort Worth publisher. Gregory said contacted him about writing it. He has a standard royalty agreement with the publisher and has not received any advances, he said.

Gregory and officials of the publishing house held a press conference at Dallas' Fairmont Hotel June 10 to counter what they called "inaccurate rumors" prematurely circulating about the contents of the book.

In a statement to media at the press conference, held across the street from the church, Gregory said he had accepted a proposal to write the book for several reasons — that it is best for him to tell the story, he has insights into the 15-year Southern Baptist controver-

sy, and he hopes the book will make a positive contribution to the church and the kingdom of God.

While saving the details for buyers of the book, Gregory commented on several aspects that will be covered in it.

He reiterated that the primary reason he left was because of the leadership question posed by Criswell's decision to remain on the scene. Yet Gregory was kind to Criswell in his remarks, calling him a "great man whose historic position is secure" and noting that a man who can serve a super church for 50 years with all of its pressures "is amazing."

But what happened to Gregory during his 21 months at the church is a story the former pastor said he needs to tell. "No one wears a black or white hat. We all wear gray hats. There is a seductive power in the situation that is explored in the book."

Criswell told the **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** he is "amazed" about news of Gregory's book. "I have been told it is a blistering indictment of me and the church," he said. "Before God, I did everything in my power to help him before, during, and after

what happened."

Gregory and his wife Linda filed for divorce last October, blaming the stress of the Dallas pastorate in part for the breakup.

He said he will also deal with the Southern Baptist Convention controversy, in which he said he was a "double agent," acquainted with strategies of both sides, and it will deal with the firing of Russell Dilday at Southwestern Seminary and the departure of Baylor University from its traditional relationship with Texas Baptists.

Gregory said his viewpoint on the Baylor issue "has changed substantially." He still is opposed to the method used by the university in essentially severing its ties to the state convention, but he regrets that his opposition cut him off from his alma mater.

The 44-year-old Gregory, once the most sought-after preacher in the SBC, said that since his resignation he has been working for Greenwood-Mt. Olivet funeral home and cemetery in Fort Worth, going door-to-door selling pre-arranged funerals.

"It is refreshing to relate to God as a layman," he said.

Druin is associate editor, Texas BAPTIST STANDARD.

Longtime Starkville pastor Lloyd concludes 45 years in ministry

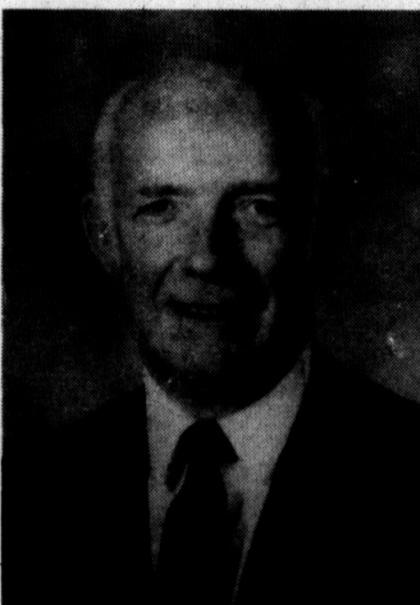
R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville, for the past 22 years, has announced his retirement effective June 30. His retirement will conclude 45 years as pastor of Southern Baptist churches.

Lloyd came to First, Starkville, from a 10-year pastorate at Ridgedale Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. Before that, he served other Tennessee churches, as well as congregations in Illinois.

A native of Fort Edward, N.Y., Lloyd was educated at Carson Newman College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

As well as being a pastor, Lloyd has served as an instructor in the off-campus program of Southern Seminary, and at the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Extension Division. He was also professor at Ministerial Institute and College, West Point, and field supervisor in the doctor of ministry programs for Southern and Southwestern seminaries. He was adjunct professor in the advanced pastoral studies program at San Francisco Theological Seminary and visiting professor of Old Testament for two recent January minimesters at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

He served two terms as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and currently serves as founding board member of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville, and on the alumni board of Southern Seminary.



Raymond Lloyd

Mrs. Lloyd has served as director of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in her church, in Oktibbeha Association, and in Area IV; and has been a board member for the state WMU.

She has made mission trips to Chile to work with children, to Nigeria to teach voice at the seminary there, and is a member of the Starkville Symphony Chorus.

The Lloyds have two children: Rich, pastor at Upton Church, Upton, Ky.; and Vicki Redfearn, biomedical engineer in Plymouth, Mass.

Significant accomplishments at First, Starkville, during Lloyd's ministry include: purchase of sev-

eral properties, construction of the Applegate Education Building, restoration of the historic 1889 chapel, the establishment of a missionary-in-residence ministry, over 140 students from the church entering church-related vocations, and gifts of over \$4 million to missions.

The Lloyds will continue to live in Starkville, but plan to travel overseas — especially to teach in Baptist seminaries.

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